



April 2011

Alcohol Awareness Month

- Impaired driving is often a symptom of a larger problem: alcohol misuse and abuse.
- Alcohol-impaired motor vehicle crashes cost more than an estimated \$37 billion annually.
- About 11,000 people die in alcohol-impaired driving crashes each year—one every 48 minutes.
- Problem drinkers have twice as many injury events per year and four times as many hospitalizations for injuries.
- In recent years, an estimated 1.9 million emergency department visits were associated with substance misuse or abuse, with alcohol continuing to be the primary substance that is misused or abused.
- Many drinkers are not aware that they are misusing or abusing alcohol. According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, drinking more than 4 drinks on any day or more than 14 drinks per week for men or more than 3 drinks on any day or more than 7 drinks per week for women is considered “at-risk” or “heavy” drinking.
- In April 2009, 928 people died in crashes in which the drivers had blood alcohol concentrations of .08 grams per deciliter or higher, which is illegal per se in every State in the United States.



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**



buzzed
driving is
drunk
driving
designate a sober driver